appointed in the Education Department last year there was not a single man from Shertallai and he was sure that that was not due to want of applications from that taluk.

He deplored how the Judicial Department set at naught the resolution of the Legislative Council demanding the suspension of the recent *Civil Courts' Guide*. He suggested that a Registrar of Affidavits on a reasonable pay be appointed to lessen the difficulties of parties in getting affidavits duly attested by qualified persons.

98. Defects in the public service and the difficulties of the litigant public.

Mr. P. K. Joseph (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) represented that the hardship the people suffered on account of the indifference of Government officials was great. He confined his remarks to the irregularities of the judicial subordinates owing to lack of supervision by their superiors which was the key to efficiency. The laxity of control of the High Court over the lower judiciary led to accumulation of arrears in all the courts, and even the highest tribunal was not free from that defect.

99. Need for observing certain principles in making appointments and promotions in the public service and for retiring higher officers after the age of 55.

Mr. K. M. Manman Mappillai (Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla) prefaced his representation with the remark that it was gratifying to note that the Malayalam shorthand writers appointed by the Government were doing their work quite well. He then stated that the public service of the State stood in need of improvement in certain respects. In the first place, there was no consistency in the principle followed in the matter of appointments. Instances were not wanting of new posts being created to benefit particular individuals and not with a view to secure efficiency in the service. There were, again, officers who bestowed their official patronage exclusively on their castemen. Government should call for a list of appointments made by heads of departments and satisfy themselves that the powers of appointment vested in those officers were not wantonly abused. Another regrettable feature of the State service was the absence of principle in the matter of promotions. Junior men in the service were often given sudden lifts, in disregard of the claims of men of proved ability and senior to them in service. Extensions of service were given, in some cases, to officers in service after the completion of their 55th year. The interests of the service required that acts of that kind that savoured of official nepotism should not be countenanced. Again, the practice of promoting Judges of the High Court to executive posts was highly objectionable; for the prospect of promotion would induce them to court popularity and that might naturally interfere with the efficient discharge of their judicial functions. Another evil that called for urgent remedy was the prevalence of corruption in the different branches of the State service. The Member suggested that the matter should be thoroughly investigated and the erring officers sought out and brought to book.

100. Recruitment to Public service.

Mr. K. C. Eapen B. A. (Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum), while appreciating the desire of the Government to approach public questions from the popular standpoint, stated that the administration of the State was not all that it ought to be. Laxity of principle, especially in matters of appointment, and inordinate delay in the settlement of even urgent matters were features common to almost all departments of the State service. Some heads of departments, without realising their duties and responsibilities, resorted to objectionable ways and practices highly detrimental to the interests of the State. The statements of appointments furnished by departmental heads were in some cases quite misleading. Instances were not wanting of officers who would bestow their official favours on none but those of their own community. The Member thought that those evils could not be remedied unless men of good character, conscience and common sense were recruited to the service. In his opinion, the present system of recruitment was defective in that it not only shut out from the service men of real worth, but also produced much communal strife in the State. The Member suggested that recruitment in general should be regulated by a competitive examination, with the necessary safeguards to protect the interests of minorities. He also urged the necessity for the appointment of a committee so as to give the people some sort of responsibility in the matter

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